

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-20 PM-07 L-03 AID-20 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, SN, KS, TW

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: EA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 004678

COUNTRY DRUG PROGRAM FOR KOREA

PRINCIPAL COUNTRY DRUG CONTROL PROBLEMS (SUMMARY)

1. NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT IN KOREA IS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS, THE KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE (KNP), AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE. THE SEOUL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (SPO) ALSO PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE INVESTIGATION OF NARCOTIC OFFENSES AND EMPLOYS 12 INVESTIGATORS BORROWED FROM KNP AND MHSA; AND SPO HAS THE FINAL SAY REGARDING PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS AND DOES INSTITUTE ITS OWN INVESTIGATIONS. IN GENERAL, INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS SUSPECTS DOES NOT MOVE FREELY BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS AND DUE TO THE REWARD SYSTEM, OFFICERS ARE HESITANT TO SHARE THEIR CASE INFORMATION WITH OTHERS. THE PROBLEM IN KOREA IS THUS SIMILAR TO THAT FOUND IN THE U.S. PRIOR TO THE UNIFICATION OF ALL FEDERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES UNDER THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

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2. LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD IS EVIDENT IN ALL BRANCHES OF ROK LAW ENFORCEMENT.

3. MARIJUANA APPEARS TO BE THE DRUG OF CHOICE BOTH AMONG THE U.S. MILITARY POPULATION AND AMONG LOCAL CITIZENS. MARIJUANA IS READILY AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND IS GROWN COMMERCIALY AND LEGALLY FOR ITS FIBER CONTENT. DUE TO THE ABUNDANCE OF THE LAND AND THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE FARMERS WHO GROW IT, ROK OFFICIALS RARELY, IF EVER, PURSUE MARIJUANA CASES TO THE SOURCE OF SUPPLY; I.E., THE INDIVIDUAL FARMER. THE WHOLESALE PRICE ON THE LOCAL MARKET FOR MARIJUANA RUNS FROM \$5.00 TO \$10.00 PER POUND, DEPENDING ON WHERE IT IS PURCHASED, NOT PARTICULARLY ON QUALITY. DRUG ABUSES IN THE "CAMP AREAS" BORDERING U.S. MILITARY BASES IN KOREA IS STILL PRESENT, BUT APPEARS TO BE MINIMAL.

4. TWO U.S. MILITARY AGENCIES ARE CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING NARCOTIC OFFENSES BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL. THEY ARE THE ARMY'S CID AND THE AIR FORCE'S OSI. AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FAR EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE APO CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT CONDUIT FOR TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS.

#### PROGRAM TARGETS

1. CLOSER COOPERATION WITH ALL ROK NARCOTIC AGENCIES, AND ESPECIALLY THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS WHOSE MAIN INTEREST SO FAR APPEARS TO LIE IN THE SEIZURE OF JEWELRY AND OTHER VALUABLE CONTRABAND DUE TO THE LARGE REWARDS OFFERED.

2. CONTINUED CONSULTATION AND OPERATIONAL LIAISON WITH U.S. INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY REGARDING INTER-AREA AIR TRAFFIC AT OSAN AND KIMPO AIR BASES.

3. COORDINATION WITH THE POST SECURITY OFFICER AND CONCERNED MILITARY UNITS OF DRUG INVESTIGATION OF DEPENDENT AMERICAN CHILDREN, ON AND OFF THE BASES.

4. DEA, WORKING WITH OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES IN KOREA IS DEVELOPING INFORMANTS TO ENABLE THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS CONCERNED TO KEEP FULLY ABREAST OF ANY NARCOTICS PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE.

5. IN COOPERATION WITH THE ROK GOVERNMENT, MAKE ADDITIONAL TRAIN-  
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ING AVAILABLE TO KOREAN OFFICERS, BOTH IN-COUNTRY AND ON A SELECT BASIS BY SENDING OFFICERS TO STATE/AID, DEA AND CUSTOMS SCHOOLS.

6. STATE/AID AND DEA ASSISTANCE TO ROK NARCOTICS AGENCIES BY OBTAINING SUITABLE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS NARCOTICS TESTING KITS FOR THE FIELD, TECHNICAL ELECTRONIC AID, ETC.

7 ESTABLISHING REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH ROK OPERATIONAL NARCOTIC INVESTIGATING AGENCIES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE. IMPRESSING ON ROK OFFICIALS THAT THEY TOO WILL BE INVOLVED IN

THE WORLD-WIDE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM, NOT ONLY OF TRAFFIC  
TO THE U.S., BUT ALSO TMREREAN SHORES. (END SUMMARY)

FULL TEXT OF COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.  
ERICSON

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## Message Attributes

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